



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOLLY DUNN PENDLETON, PRESIDENT,
HOLLY'S HOUSE, AND
DETECTIVE BRIAN TURPIN, EVANSVILLE
POLICE DEPARTMENT, RECOGNIZED FOR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL CRIME VICTIMS**

PRESS RELEASE

In honor of National Crime Victim's Rights Week, which was April 22-28th, Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, today recognized the efforts of Holly Dunn Pendleton and Detective Brian Turpin, as 2007 recipients of the United States Attorney's Carol S. Morris Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Rights of Victims.

This is a special award given annually by the United States Attorney's Office to honor individuals who unselfishly give of their time and effort to better the lives of crime victims in the Southern District of Indiana. It especially reflects the nation's recent heightened awareness of the devastating impact of crime and violence on its victims, while underscoring the importance of helping victims heal and rebuild their lives.

People become advocates for a variety of reasons. For Holly Dunn Pendleton - the wisdom she gained as a survivor of abuse provides insight she imparts to people who desperately need to know that they too can survive and succeed. Holly Dunn Pendleton is the only known survivor of the Railroad Serial Killer, who attacked Holly and her boyfriend, Chris Maier, on August 28, 1977 in Lexington, Kentucky. Both were students at the University of Kentucky. Chris was killed in the attack. Somehow, Holly survived. She was raped, beaten, stabbed, and left for dead. After recovering physically, Holly began the lifelong process of healing emotionally. She prides herself on being a survivor, not a victim.

Holly serves as a volunteer advocate for sexual violence victims. While counseling these victims, Holly gives victims hope and lets them know that as a victim of a violent crime, their life does not end, they can survive and succeed.

Detective Brian Turpin began work toward establishing an Advocacy Center for the victims of sexual offenses in 2004. He researched options and garnered support from the community, government, and public service agencies. The concept was later expanded to include victims of domestic, as well as sexual abuse. The end result was Holly's House, Inc., established in March 2005, and named to honor Holly Dunn Pendleton.

Detective Turpin then began his search for a location for Holly's House. In 2005, a request was made that the old North Park Library building be donated to Holly's House. In November 2006, the building was donated. Detective Turpin applied for and received the Welborn Baptist Foundation grant of \$200,000, and the Allstate Foundation grant in the amount of \$15,000. He continues to work toward obtaining donations of labor and materials for renovation of the building with a projected goal of being operational by October 2007.

The U.S. Attorney's Award was established in the Southern District of Indiana in 1991 to recognize those persons who have made significant contributions in the lives of crime victims. National Crime Victim's Rights Week is a time for all Americans to learn about victimization, reflect on the cost of crime to our society, and promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The week's theme, "Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time" envisions a strengthened national commitment to the nearly 24 million Americans harmed by crime each year.

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws; law enforcement agencies give victims greater protection; and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established throughout the country.

"We are all diminished when victims go without the protections and help they need," said John W. Gillis, director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice. "Anytime a crime is not reported, a witness is intimidated, or an order of restitution is not enforced, we are all less secure. Achieving justice means repairing the harm suffered by all victims of crime."

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